



**CONAWAPA
ENVIRONMENTAL
REVIEW PANEL**

***OPERATIONAL
PROCEDURES***

September, 1991

OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES

1.0 INTRODUCTION

In June 1991, the federal and Manitoba Ministers of the Environment appointed a six person Environment Assessment Panel to conduct a public review of the Manitoba Hydro's proposed Conawapa generating station, BiPole III transmission line complex and interconnection to Ontario (Figure 1 on page 8). Public hearings on the Conawapa project were requested by the federal Minister of Fisheries and Oceans and are also required pursuant to the Manitoba Environment Act.

The Panel's Terms of Reference, issued jointly by the federal and provincial Ministers, call for the Panel to examine potential impacts of the project on the biophysical environment, human health, land and water use, aboriginal resource use, and forest and aquatic ecosystems. Social, cultural, health and economic impacts directly related to the environmental effects of the project and its implications for land and resource related agreements shall also be considered.

The Terms of Reference specify that the review should proceed in two stages. In **Stage 1**, the Panel will review and make recommendations relating to the proposed generating station, major installations such as converter stations and transmission line corridors. If, after receiving the Panel's Stage 1 report, the federal and provincial governments decide that the project should proceed, the Panel will in **Stage 2** consider issues relating to the routing of transmission lines within approved corridors and any other outstanding issues.

The Panel has prepared Operational Procedures to assist those wishing to participate in the review by providing information on how the Panel plans to conduct its review and on the steps that will be followed. The procedures are designed to be efficient and fair to all participants and to provide full opportunity for public involvement in the review. Operating procedures may be amended by the Panel as deemed appropriate, and such amendments will be made public.



2.0 GENERAL REVIEW PRINCIPLES

All contact with the panel, including media contact, must be through the Co-executive Secretaries to the Panel. Individual Panel members will avoid private oral or written communication about substantive issues associated with the review with anyone outside the Panel and Secretariat, although they may discuss matters related to the review process.

Information submitted to the Panel from any source will be publicly available. The Panel will not accept information which is submitted on condition that it remain confidential or restricted regarding its release to the public.

The Panel review will provide opportunities for the participation of all interested parties including individuals, citizen groups, native organizations, companies, associations and government agencies. The Panel may also invite specific groups to participate in the review if, in the Panel's opinion, their participation may add materially to the review process.

The Panel's public hearings will be conducted in a non-judicial but structured manner to allow for fair and full examination of all information presented to the Panel.

The Panel's final reports on Stage 1 and Stage 2 of the review will be submitted to the federal and Manitoba Ministers of the Environment and to the federal Minister of Fisheries and Oceans.

Internal deliberations of the Panel are confidential to the Panel and the Panel Secretariat.

3.0 PUBLIC REGISTRIES AND FILES

All information received by the Panel will be filed and available for public examination at Manitoba public registries indicated in Schedule 1 on page 6. Schedule 1 also lists viewing centres where the public can examine key review documents and/or document summaries.

The Panel will announce the location of other viewing centres where key review documents and/or document summaries will be available to the public.

The Co-Executive Secretaries shall make available hard copies of documents in the file upon request. A fee for photocopying services may be levied in exceptional cases.

The Co-Executive Secretaries of the panel are:

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Joint Review Secretariat
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Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3C 4A5

Tel: (204) 945-8425
Toll free: 1-800-282-8069
Fax: (204) 945-0175

Keith Grady
Federal Environmental
Assessment Review Office
200 Sacre-Coeur Blvd.
Hull, Quebec
K1A 0H3

Tel: (819) 953-2989
(collect calls accepted)
Fax: (819) 994-1469

4.0 PUBLIC REVIEW STEPS

A flow chart of the review process is provided in Schedule 2 on page 7.

Stages 1 and 2 of the review will include the following main steps:

- identification of issues by the public and Panel
- development of guidelines for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) by the Panel
- preparation of the EIS by Manitoba Hydro
- review of the EIS by the public and Panel
- public hearings by the Panel
- preparation of report to Ministers by the Panel

Identification of Issues

Existing documentation will be collected and reviewed by the Panel to confirm what studies have been done and what information is available.

The Panel will immediately begin efforts to ensure that the public is fully informed about the purpose of the review, role and mandate of the Panel and opportunities for public participation.

The Panel will consult with participants to identify and prioritize the key issues to be addressed during the review. Input from the public and other parties will be accommodated through community meetings and issue scoping workshops.

Community meetings will be held across the study area to give the public an opportunity to express their views on the project to the Panel. The meetings will be informal and will be open to all community residents and others wishing to attend.

Issue scoping workshops will be held in Thompson and Winnipeg. They will focus on technical issues that should be examined in the review and on information needed to better understand these issues. Workshop participants will include specialists and representatives of organizations and government agencies likely to have a significant role to play in the review. The workshops will also be open to others wishing to attend.

Dates, locations and procedures for these meetings and workshops will be announced at least 21 days in advance.

Development of Guidelines for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

Draft guidelines for the preparation of an EIS, prepared by a provincial-federal technical advisory committee, have been made public by Manitoba Environment.

The Panel will consider this document and comments from the public and others in determining what information and studies are required to properly assess the potential impacts of the Conawapa project.

The Panel's requirements will be set out in guidelines for the preparation of an EIS by Manitoba Hydro. The guidelines may also identify information required from government agencies. The EIS guidelines and a compilation of comments received from review participants will be made public.

Preparation of the EIS by Manitoba Hydro

Manitoba Hydro will collect the required information and prepare the EIS in accordance with the Panel's guidelines.

Review of the Manitoba Hydro's EIS

Upon receipt of the EIS by the Panel, copies will be distributed to the public and to government agencies. A minimum of 60 days from the date of distribution will be allowed for the review of this information. During this period, written comments on the adequacy and completeness of the documentation may be made to the Panel.

Based on comments received from the public, government agencies and its own review and evaluation, the Panel will decide on the acceptability of the EIS for use in the public hearings. If the information is deemed by the Panel not to be adequate, the Panel may issue a deficiency statement to Manitoba Hydro which will be made public. A period of at least 30 days will be allowed for public and government review of additional material prior to holding public hearings.

Public Hearings

Public hearings will be held by the Panel. They will be conducted in a non-judicial but structured manner. The purpose of the hearings is to allow for a full public review and examination of the information received by the Panel as well as to solicit public comment on matters relevant to the Panel's mandate.

Hearings will be held in communities in the vicinity of the proposed generating station, transmission corridors and other major installations and at Thompson, Gillam and Winnipeg. Other centres which indicate an interest in the review will also be considered.

Dates and locations for the hearings, as well as detailed procedures governing the conduct of the hearings, will be announced by the Panel at least 30 days in advance.

Panel Report on Stage 1

The Panel will prepare and submit a report on Stage 1 of the review to the federal Ministers of the Environment and Fisheries and Oceans and the Manitoba Minister of the Environment.

The report shall contain its findings, conclusions and recommendations relevant to the approval, rejection or approval with terms and conditions of the proposed Conawapa generating station, expansion of the Henday converter station, upgrading of the southern receiver system, a preferred site for the Riel station, and preferred BiPole III transmission corridors, including the acceptability/unacceptability of each Ontario/Manitoba border crossing option identified in the project proposal. The Stage 1 report will be released to the public by the federal and provincial Environment Ministers and the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans prior to decisions being made respecting approval or rejection of the project.

Stage 2 of the Review

Stage 2 of the review will occur only if the Conawapa project receives government approvals following Stage 1 of the review. In this event, the Panel would examine issues relating to the routing of transmission lines within approved corridors and any other issues which the Panel determines are outstanding.

The Panel would issue Operational Procedures for Stage 2 of the review, which may include reference to requirements for additional assessment information, public meetings and hearings, and the issuance of a Stage 2 report.

5.0 TECHNICAL SPECIALISTS

The panel may secure the services of independent specialists to provide information and analysis on complex technical, scientific or other subjects or issues that may be raised throughout the Panel review process. These persons will be resource people to the review and will provide information and analysis on certain issues, as assigned by the Panel, in addition to raising issues and questions which may otherwise be overlooked. Their input to the Panel will be limited to factual information and analysis.

The appointment of these specialists will be publicly announced and their services can be requested by review participants. Participants wishing to consult them must make arrangements through the Panel Secretariat.

6.0 TRANSLATION AND INTERPRETATION SERVICES

Recognizing the importance of broad participation in the review, the Panel will endeavour to make key information available in English, French and aboriginal languages as appropriate. This will include interpretive services at public meetings and hearings and the translation of Panel information releases and key documents submitted by the proponent. The need for these services will be determined on a community-by-community basis.

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Également disponible en français

Schedule 1: Public File Locations

Public Registries

- Manitoba Environment Resource Centre
Building 2
139 Tuxedo Avenue
Winnipeg
- Thompson Public Library
81 Thompson Drive North
Thompson
- Flin Flon Public Library
58 Main Street
Flin Flon
- South Central Regional Library
352 Stephen Street
Morden
- Parkland Regional Library
504 Main Street North
Dauphin
- Portage Plains Regional Library
170 Saskatchewan Ave.
Portage
- Western Manitoba Regional Library
638 Princess Avenue
Brandon
- The Pas Public Library
53 Edwards Avenue
The Pas
- Selkirk Community Library
303 Main Street
Selkirk
- Steinbach Public Library
304 Second Street
Steinbach
- Centennial Public Library
251 Donald Street
Winnipeg
- Legislative Library
200 Vaughan Street
Winnipeg
- Manitoba Eco-Network
201-128 James Avenue
Winnipeg
- Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakinak (MKO) Inc.
23 Station Road
Thompson
- Manitoba Environmental Council
Building 3
139 Tuxedo Avenue
Winnipeg
- Southeast Resource Development Council
201-511 Ellice Avenue
Winnipeg
- Union of Manitoba Municipalities
44 Tupper Street
Portage la Prairie
- Federal Environmental Assessment Review Office
13th Floor, Fontaine Bldg.
200 Boul. Sacre-Coeur
Hull, Quebec

VIEWING CENTRES

- First Nation Office
Berens River
- Band Office
Norway House
- LGD of Gillam Office
323 Railway Street
Gillam
- Community Council Office
Cross Lake
- Community Council Office
Manigotagan
- Community Council Office
Grand Rapids
- RM of Siglunes Municipal Office
Main & 2nd Avenue South
Ashern
- District Office
Manitoba Natural Resources
Falcon Lake, Manitoba

**SCHEDULE 2:
REVIEW PROCESS**

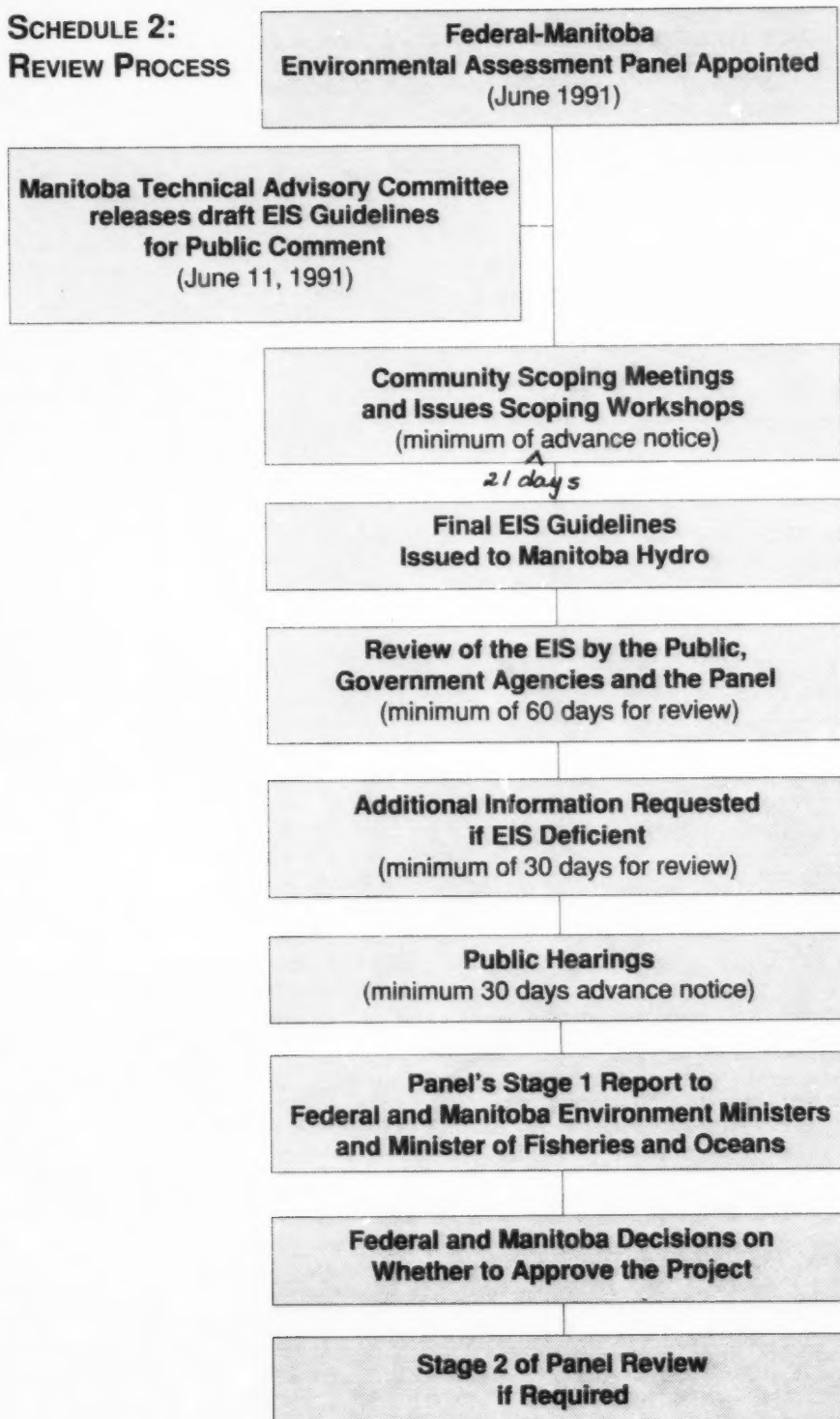
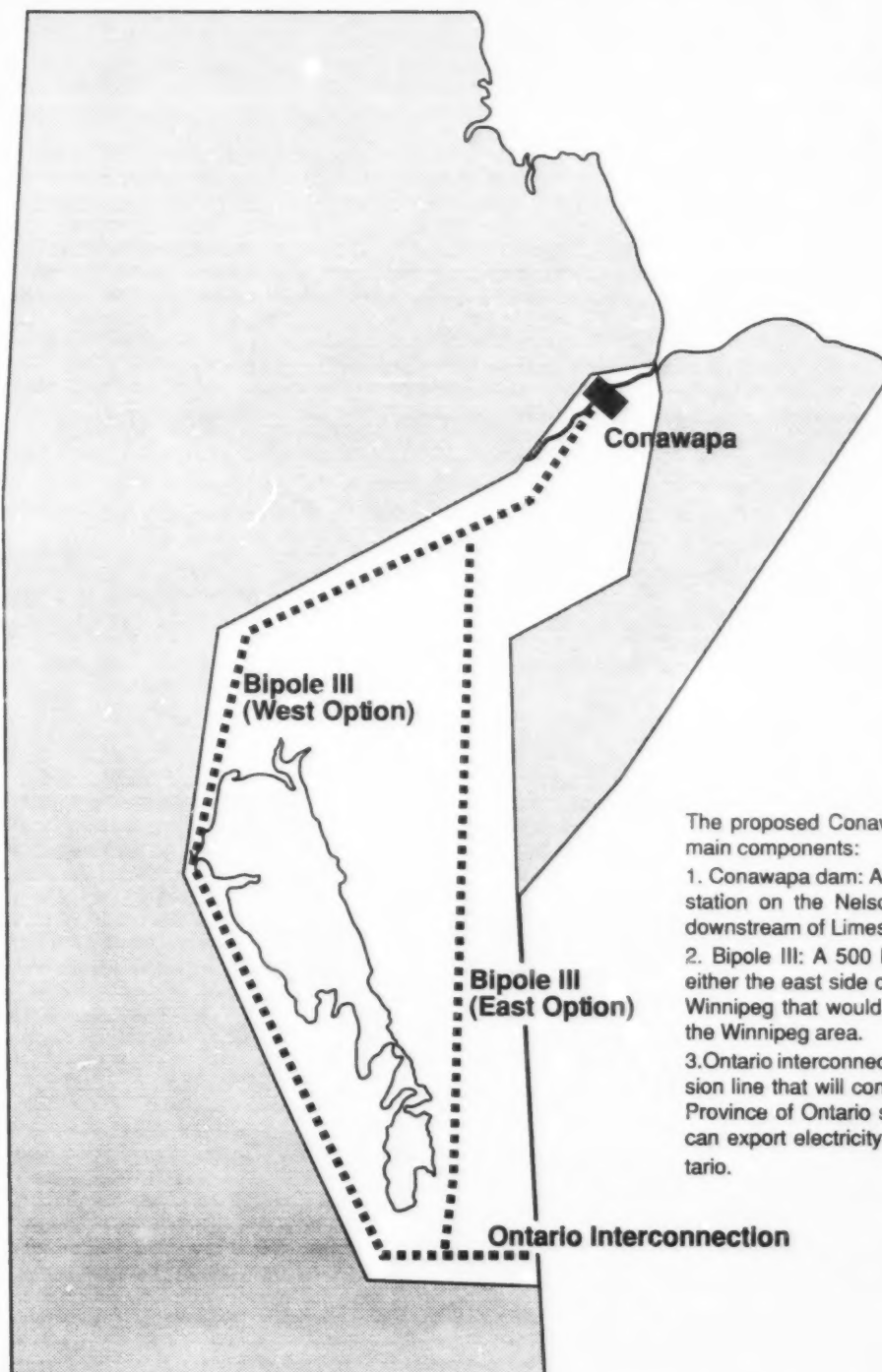


FIGURE 1



The proposed Conawapa Project has three main components:

1. Conawapa dam: A dam and hydro-electric station on the Nelson River 27 kilometers downstream of Limestone.
2. Bipole III: A 500 kv transmission line on either the east side or the west side of Lake Winnipeg that would transport the power to the Winnipeg area.
3. Ontario interconnection: A 500 kv transmission line that will connect Winnipeg with the Province of Ontario so that Manitoba Hydro can export electricity to the Province of Ontario.